



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 10/729,293 | 12/05/2003 | Raymond Harper | 190250-1500 | 2178 |
| 38823 7590 10/30/2007 THOMAS, KAYDEN, HORSTEMEYER & RISLEY, LLP/ AT&T BLS Intellectual Property, Inc. 600 GALLERIA PARKWAY SUITE 1500 ATLANTA, GA 30339 | | | EXAMINER ALMEIDA, DEVIN E | |
| | | | ART UNIT 2132 | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | MAIL DATE 10/30/2007 | DELIVERY MODE PAPER |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

D

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/729,293 | Applicant(s) HARPER, RAYMOND | |
| | Examiner Devin Almeida | Art Unit 2132 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10/17/2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This action is in response to the papers filed 10/23/2007. Claims 1-29 were received for consideration. Claims 1, 12 and 21 were amended. Currently claims 1-29 are under consideration.

Response to Arguments

Applicants arguments with respect to independent claim 1 have been considered but are not persuasive. Limsico in view of Kadooka clearly teaches "expiration logic residing on a first computer system operable to determine if the current password is approaching its expiration prior to logging onto the switched access remote test system residing on a second computer system and is operable to cause the user to be prompted to change the current password if the current password is determined to be approaching its expiration". Limsico teaches a local machine (i.e. first computer) with a password GUI operable to change a user's password on a remote computer system (i.e. second computer). Kadooka teaches expiration logic residing on a first computer (Limsico's local machine) system operable to determine if the current password is approaching its expiration prior to logging onto the switched access remote test system residing on a second computer system (Limsico's remote machine) and is operable to cause the user to be prompted to change the current password if the current password is determined to be approaching its expiration (see figure 4a). It is clearly shown that determine if the current password is approaching its expiration (steps 4-2 – 4-6) is prior to logging on (step 4-9).

Applicants arguments with respect to independent claim 12 have been considered but are not persuasive. Limsico in view of Kadooka clearly teaches "determining at the first computer system if the current password is approaching its expiration prior to logging onto the switched access remote test system residing on a second computer system". Limsico teaches a local machine (i.e. first computer) with a password GUI operable to change a user's password on a remote computer system (i.e. second computer). Kadooka teaches expiration logic residing on a first computer (Limsico's local machine) system operable to determine if the current password is approaching its expiration prior to logging onto the switched access remote test system residing on a second computer system (Limsico's remote machine) and is operable to cause the user to be prompted to change the current password if the current password is determined to be approaching its expiration (see figure 4a). It is clearly shown that determine if the current password is approaching its expiration (steps 4-2 – 4-6) is prior to logging on (step 4-9).

Applicants arguments with respect to independent claim 21 have been considered but are not persuasive. Limsico in view of Kadooka clearly teaches "determining at the first computer system if the current password is approaching its expiration prior to logging onto the switched access remote test system residing on a second computer system". Limsico teaches a local machine (i.e. first computer) with a password GUI operable to change a user's password on a remote computer system (i.e. second computer). Kadooka teaches expiration logic residing on a first computer (Limsico's local machine) system operable to determine if the current password is

Art Unit: 2132

approaching its expiration prior to logging onto the switched access remote test system residing on a second computer system (Limsico's remote machine) and is operable to cause the user to be prompted to change the current password if the current password is determined to be approaching its expiration (see figure 4a). It is clearly shown that determine if the current password is approaching its expiration (steps 4-2 – 4-6) is prior to logging on (step 4-9).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-10 and 12-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Limsico (U.S. Patent # 5,793,952) in view of Ackroff (U.S. Patent # 5,105,438) in further view of Kadooka (U.S. Patent # 5,606,663). The Limsico (U.S. Patent # 5,793,952) reference with respect to claim 1 teaches a password management system, comprising a graphical user interface logic residing on a first computer system (see figure 3 element 310) operable to receive a current password from a user, prompt the user to determine whether the user desires to change the current password, and responsive to the user response receive a new password (see figure 3 and column 3 line 42-54). Password confirmation logic residing on a first computer system operable to confirm the current password associated with the user on a remote computer system

Art Unit: 2132

residing on a second computer system (see figure 3 element 350) remote from the first computer system (see figure 3); password administration logic residing on a first computer system, responsive to the password confirmation logic and the graphical user interface, operable to receive the new password and to change the current password on the remote computer system (see figure 2 and column 4 line 57 – column 5 line 54).

The Limsico reference does not teach that the remote computer system is a switched access remote test system (SARTS) and expiration logic residing on a first computer system operable to determine if the current password is approaching its expiration prior to logging onto the switched access remote test system residing on a second computer system and is operable to cause the user to be prompted to change the current password if the current password is determined to be approaching its expiration. The Ackroff reference teaches that the remote computer system is a switched access remote test system (see column 3 line 18-29). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains to have made the remote computer system taught by Limsico to be a switched access remote test system as discussed by Ackroff. SARTS provides a data base of circuit configurations and other key information, and in combination with a human interface for accessing circuits, issues test commands and receives measurements. The test equipment is not local to the circuit that is in trouble as it is more economical to make the test from a remotely centralized location (see column 1 lines 44-50). Therefore one would have been motivated to include a switched access remote test system on a password manager that is operable to change the current

Art Unit: 2132

password at determined time or when the user request a change of password to keep the Switched access remote test system secure and only qualified user access to the switched access remote test system. The Kadooka reference teaches expiration logic residing on a second computer system operable to determine if the current password is approaching its expiration prior to logging onto the switched access remote test system residing on a second computer system remote from the first computer system and is operable to cause the user to be prompted to change the current password if the current password is determined to be approaching its expiration (see figure 4a). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains to make it possible to set the available period on the system side for each password according to the access frequency of the user whom the password identifies, prescribe a password updating period for a certain length of time immediately preceding the expiration of the available period, inform the user who logs in the system during the updating period that the expiration of his password is imminent by displaying a message requesting him to change his password, and thereby urge him to update his password. Therefore one would be motivated to warn the user and set different length updating periods so a user who seldom accesses the system does not become unable to log in the system because his password has run out of its available period even if he never accessed the system during that period (see Kadooka column 1 lines 38-58).

With respect to claim 2, the password confirmation logic is operable to send the current password to the switched access remote test system (i.e remote machine as

Art Unit: 2132

taught by Ackroff) and receive a response from the switched access remote test system (i.e remote machine as taught by Ackroff also see Limsico column 5 line 43 – column 6 line 65).

With respect to claim 3, the password confirmation logic is operable to compare the response with a plurality of expected responses and determine whether the current password provided by the user is valid (see Limsico column 6 lines 5-28).

With respect to claim 4, the response is an alphanumeric string, and the plurality of expected responses comprises erroneous responses and successful responses (see Limsico column 5 line 43 – column 7 line 16).

With respect to claim 5, the password confirmation logic is operable to instruct the graphical user interface logic to provide any of a plurality of error messages to the user upon the password confirmation logic determining that the current password provided by the user is not valid (see Limsico figure 5B elements 5160, 5190, and 5310 “Display Error Message” and column 5 line 43 – column 6 line 54).

With respect to claim 6, the password administration logic performs a password change upon receiving a request to change the password from the graphical user interface (see Limsico column 5 line 43-54).

With respect to claim 7, the password administration logic performs a password change upon receiving a confirmation of the password from the password confirmation logic (see Limsico figure 5C element 5250 “Display Verify Password GUI” and column 6 lines 18-39).

With respect to claim 8, the password administration logic is operable to send the current password and the new password to the switched access remote test system (i.e remote machine as taught by Ackroff) and receive a response from the switched access remote test system (i.e remote machine as taught by Ackroff), and compare the response to a plurality of expected responses (see Limsico column 5 lines 43 and column 7 lines 16).

With respect to claim 9, the password administration logic is operable to instruct the graphical user interface logic to provide any of a plurality of error messages to the user upon the password administration logic determining that the new password provided by the user was not accepted by the switched access remote test system (see Limsico figure 5 elements 5160, 5190, and 5310 "Display Error Message" and column 5 line 43 – column 6 line 54).

With respect to claim 10, the Limsico reference further comprises a password file operable to store a set of data comprising the expiration date of the current password; wherein the expiration logic is operable to read the password file and request that the graphical user interface notify the user that the current password is nearing expiration responsive to the expiration date (see Limsico column 9 line 5-40).

With respect to claim 12 and 21, the Limsico reference teaches, a method of managing passwords, comprising the steps of providing a user with a graphical user interface residing on a first computer system (see figure 3 element 310). Receiving a current password from the user via the graphical user interface for a remote computer

system residing on a second computer system (see figure 3 element 350) remote from the first computer system. Prompting the user on whether to change the current password, receiving a new password from the user responsive to the user response to the prompting (see figure 3 and column 3 lines 41-54 and column 4 line 57 – column 5 line 2). Confirming the current password with the remote computer system and requesting that the remote computer system change the password responsive to the user response to the prompting (see column 5 line 43 – column 6 line 65). The Limsico reference does not teach that the remote computer system is a switched access remote test system and determining at the first computer system if the current password is approaching its expiration prior to logging onto the switched access remote test system residing on a second computer system. The Ackroff reference teaches that the remote computer system is a switched access remote test system (see column 3 line 18-29). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains to have made the remote computer system taught by Limsico to be a switched access remote test system as discussed by Ackroff. SARTS provides a data base of circuit configurations and other key information, and in combination with a human interface for accessing circuits, issues test commands and receives measurements. The test equipment is not local to the circuit that is in trouble as it is more economical to make the test from a remotely centralized location (see column 1 lines 44-50). Therefore one would be motivated to include a switched access remote test system on a password manager that is operable to change the current password at determined time or when the user request a change

Art Unit: 2132

of password to keep the Switched access remote test system secure and only qualified user access to the switched access remote test system. The Kadooka reference teaches determining at the first computer system if the current password is approaching its expiration prior to logging onto the switched access remote test system residing on a second computer system (see figure 4a). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains to make it possible to set the available period on the system side for each password according to the access frequency of the user whom the password identifies, prescribe a password updating period for a certain length of time immediately preceding the expiration of the available period, inform the user who logs in the system during the updating period that the expiration of his password is imminent by displaying a message requesting him to change his password, and thereby urge him to update his password. Therefore one would be motivated to warn the user and set different length updating periods so a user who seldom accesses the system does not become unable to log in the system because his password has run out of its available period even if he never accessed the system during that period (see Kadooka column 1 lines 38-58).

With respect to claims 13 and 22, the confirming the current password further comprises sending the current password to the switched access remote test system (i.e remote machine as taught by Ackroff) and receiving a response from the switched access remote test system (i.e remote machine as taught by Ackroff also see Limsico column 5 line 43 – column 6 line 65 and column 7 line 46 – column 9 line 15).

With respect to claims 14 and 23, the confirming the current password further comprises comparing the response from the switched access remote test system with a plurality of expected responses (see Limsico column 5 lines 43 - column 7 lines 16).

With respect to claims 15 and 24, the confirming the current password further comprises notifying the user of an error responsive to comparing the response from the switched access remote test system (see Limsico column 5 line 43 – column 6 line 65 i.e. an error message is displayed at step 5310).

With respect to claims 16 and 25, the requesting that the switched access remote test system (i.e remote machine as taught by Ackroff) change the password responsive to the user response to the prompting further comprises sending the new password to the switched access remote test system (i.e remote machine as taught by Ackroff) along with the current password (see Limsico column 4 line 57 – column 5 line 12 and column 8 line 58-63).

With respect to claims 17 and 26, the requesting that the switched access remote test (i.e remote machine as taught by Ackroff) system change the password responsive to the user response to the prompting further comprises receiving a response from the switched access remote test system (i.e remote machine as taught by Ackroff) after sending the new password (see Limsico column and column 11 lines 6-10).

With respect to claims 18 and 27, further comprising the step of comparing the received response with a plurality of expected responses (see Limsico column 5 line 43 – column 7 line 16).

With respect to claims 19 and 28, further comprising the step of providing an error message to the user responsive to the comparing the received response (see Limsico figure 5 elements 5160, 5190, and 5310 "Display Error Message" and column 5 line 43 – column 6 line 54).

With respect to claims 20 and 29, further comprising the steps of reading a password file to determine an expiration date associated with the current password and prompting the user to change the password responsive to determination of the expiration date (see Limsico column 9 lines 5-40).

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Limsico (U.S. Patent # 5,793,952) in view of Ackroff (U.S. Patent # 5,105,438) in view of Kadooka (U.S. Patent # 5,606,663) in further view of Goldberg et al (U.S. Patent # 5,748,890). Limsico in view of Ackroff teaches everything with respect to claim 1 above but with respect to claim 11 the Limsico in view of Achroff does not teaches a password management system is operable to interact with at least two switched access remote testing systems through a second graphical user interface that forms a wrapper for said at least two switched access remote testing system. Goldberg teaches a password management system is operable to interact with at least two switched access remote testing systems (i.e remote machine as taught by Limsico in view of Ackroff) through a second graphical user interface that forms a wrapper for said at least two switched access remote testing system (i.e remote machine as taught by Limsico in view of Ackroff, also see Goldberg column 1 lines 26-67). It would have been obvious at the

Art Unit: 2132

time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains to have modified a remote password management system that would be able to interact with at least two host. Therefore one would have been motivated to design a password management system that could be use interact with at least two host to make it easier and more secure then having one password for each host. Trying to remember different passwords for each host is very time consuming, expensive, and ineffective from an accountably standpoint. Have one system would have made it a lot easier than having books with host applications and corresponding passwords (see column 1 lines 13-55).

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Art Unit: 2132

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Devin Almeida whose telephone number is (571) 270-1018. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur 8:00-5:30 Second Fri 8:00-4:30 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gilberto Barron can be reached on (571) 272 3799. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

DA

Devin Almeida
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2132
10/23/2007

Gilberto Barron Jr

GILBERTO BARRON JR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100